

BY STEVEN MATTHEWS - STAFF WRITER

RIVERSIDE – Residents here raised questions and concerns Tuesday night regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's investigation of vapor intrusion in the Valley Pike/Avondale neighborhood.

Environmental and health officials discussed the details of the investigation during a public meeting at Stebbins High School that was attended by about 100 people.

The area of concern is bordered by Guernsey Dell Avenue, Minnesota Drive, Hypathia Avenue, Rohrer Boulevard and Valley Pike. The source of the contamination is likely located east of Hypathia Avenue, said Steve Renninger, on-scene coordinator for the EPA's Region 5 in Cincinnati.

The EPA's investigation started this summer after the EPA conducted groundwater sampling in the area and discovered the presence of TCE (Trichloroethylene) and PCE (Tetrachloroethylene). Symptoms of breathing high levels of TCE and PCE include headaches, lung irritation, sleepiness, poor coordination and difficulty concentrating, nausea and in some cases, death.

Residents were encouraged to sign an access agreement that allows the EPA to take air samples. Renninger said the sampling and mitigation systems will cost a homeowner nothing.

"Without the ability to sample your house, we can't help you," Renninger said. "It's as simple as that."

There are about 130 residences in that neighborhood, but it's unclear



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how many people live there, Riverside City Manager Bryan Chodkowski said.

"This is an issue that all the citizens in that area need to take seriously," Chodkowski said. "They should strongly consider working with the EPA to determine whether or not they and their families may or may not be exposed to potential risks."

Vapor intrusion occurs when underground pollutants give off dangerous gases that can rise up through the soil and seep into buildings through foundation cracks and holes, causing unsafe indoor air pollution, according to the EPA.

The drinking water is not impacted by these site conditions, according to the EPA. The drinking water comes from the city of Dayton's public water supply.

Teresa Emmons, who's lived at her Bushnell Avenue property for five years, is concerned about her property value declining.

"If I'm looking to sell my property in the next five years, nobody's going to buy my home," Emmons said. "The property's not worth anything."

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